

**Abstract**

An authorization handle is supported for each access policy determination that is likely to be repeated. In particular, an authorization handle may be assigned to access check results associated with the same discretionary access control list and the same client context. This

- 5 likelihood may be determined based upon pre-set criteria for the application or service, based on usage history and the like. Once an access policy determination is assigned an authorization handle, the static maximum allowed access is cached for that policy determination. From access check to access check, the set of permissions desired by the client may change, and dynamic factors that might affect the overall privilege grant may also change; however, generally there is
- 10 still a set of policies that is unaffected by the changes and common across access requests. The cached static maximum allowed access data is thus used to provide efficient operations for the evaluation of common policy sets. In systems having access policy evaluations that are repeated, authorization policy evaluations are more efficient, computer resources are free for other tasks, and performance improvements are observed.